

## Dates for your diary

### Thursday 11th January

Forest School starts for Year 2

### Thursday 11th January

St Ninian's Roadshow

### Friday 12th January

Chess starts for Barrule class

### Friday 26th January

MSPCA dress up day (details to follow)

### Monday 12th February - Friday 16th February

Half term holiday

### Wednesday 28th February

Have your Say (information below)

### Thursday 15th March

Daffodil judging day

### Monday 19th March/Tuesday 20th March

Parent meetings

### Thursday 22nd March

Cross Country Championship

### Wednesday 28th March

Chess Congress

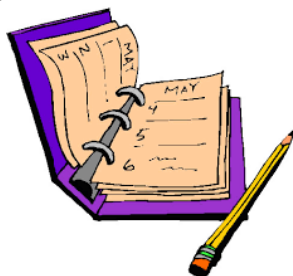
### Thursday 29th March

Break up for Easter

These dates may be subject to change. More information on individual events will be sent nearer the time and posted on our Facebook page and our website [Willaston.sch.im](http://Willaston.sch.im)

# Willaston Primary School

## Newsletter Jan.18



Dear Parent/ Carer

We would like to wish you all a happy and healthy new year and hope you all had a wonderful Christmas break.

We welcomed 2 new members of staff last term. Mrs Boylan is covering Mrs Piercy's maternity leave and works in various classes covering 'teacher release'. Mrs Knowles was appointed as a part time teacher, releasing management. They have both settled well into 'Willaston life'.


We said goodbye to Mrs Gale as a lunchtime ancillary. You will however, still see her at breakfast club. She couldn't quite cut the ties completely!! We have appointed 3 new lunchtime ancillaries. Miss Millie, Ms Carson and Mr Creer.

It was a very busy term last term with a number of memorable events:- Harvest assembly, delivery of Harvest hampers to older members of our community, Play for a day, Children in Need fashion show, tag rugby and badminton. As expected, our children rose to the occasion for each event and did us proud. Our wonderful FAST/PAWS organised a disco and reindeer drive. These were fantastic events, well attended, which together raised a great deal, which all goes to provide a better experience for your children. If you are interested in joining the FAST/PAWS team, even in a small way, just watch out for information on their next meeting.

Christmas concerts/nativities across the school were memorable, despite the necessary changes due to the weather. We hope you enjoyed them as much as the children did taking part. Well done to our choir under the guidance of Mrs Gerrard, for taking part in 3FM carol competition and singing in Strand Street. We all enjoyed our annual ice skating for KS2.

Big 'shout out' to Mrs Moyer, who promoted our school yet again on a world wide stage by delivering a wonderful Tedx Talk 'Lifting the lid on learning' which shared the benefits of SOLE (self organised learning environment) at Willaston.

Lets hope we all have a great term, and that we each continue to shine in our own unique way.



We might fall.  
Come to the edge.  
It's too high!  
COME TO THE EDGE!  
So they came  
and he pushed  
and they flew.

## chess

Thanks to Mrs Beggs we are incredibly lucky to be able to offer Barrule class the opportunity to learn chess this year under the guidance of a master. They will have lessons each week, along with Miss Rutter. Chess is an amazingly skilful game which really stretches the brain. Here is a link to the website <http://www.chessinschools.co.uk/index.htm>, which you may find interesting.

Our thanks also go to Mr Holden, for coming along and passing his skills on to our children during chess club.



## Have your say

I shall be holding the annual parent group 'Have your say' this year on Wednesday 28th February.



This will be an opportunity for you to join me for a cuppa and a chat. I will be sharing how we are continuing to move our school forward. It's also a chance for you to share any positives or areas you feel we need to focus on.

This has not always been well attended, so I really hope to see more of you this year.

## Safeguarding

May I please remind parents that due to safeguarding procedures, **no-one** is permitted to enter school at any time, including lunchtimes, without first seeing a member of staff and signing in at the school office.

**Please wait on the red chairs if no-one is in the office. We are not far away!!**

## Willaston Core Values

Over the last few years we have been working towards determining what our values are. These values underpin all of the fantastic learning that goes on in school. You will see, on the half termly forecast, how your children will be working on the skills in order to embed these values.

Why?	
 <p>Communicate</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• to develop confidence to communicate ideas clearly</li><li>• to collaborate with each other</li><li>• to involve parents / community in learning</li></ul> A <b>collaborative</b> thinker
 <p>Enquire</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• to promote independent thinkers</li><li>• to foster the desire to explore and question</li><li>• to confidently solve problems</li></ul> A <b>critical</b> thinker
 <p>Respect</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• to appreciate and respect differences</li><li>• to learn from each other</li><li>• to be aware of their responsibility for their immediate and wider community</li></ul> A <b>caring</b> thinker
 <p>Aspire</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• to aim high in all we do</li><li>• to be a risk taker and self starter</li><li>• to develop self-belief</li></ul>
 <p>Create</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• to develop a sense of adventure</li><li>• to think 'outside the box'</li><li>• to find ways round problems</li></ul> A <b>creative</b> thinker

## swimming

We are always looking for more help with swimming. If you have spare time on a Wednesday afternoon, please contact the school office.

Due to refurbishments taking place at the NSC swimming pool for a lengthy period beginning in August 2018, children will be unable to swim in the Autumn term 2018. As a result, in order to ensure that swimming sessions are not disrupted too much, swimming sessions will continue after Easter this year. This will mean that year 2 will swim during the summer term. More details of this will follow shortly.

## Car Park

Please be aware that the Manor Car Park is a private parking area and is only for use by patrons of the Manor Hotel.

We are very aware that parking around school is not easy. Unfortunately there is no easy solution, but we do ask you to respect our neighbours.

## Lego



We are always looking to supplement our supplies in school. If you find that you have boxes under beds that are gathering dust, then please drop them into school. We are most grateful and can assure you that they will be well used.

## Solihull Parenting

Well done to those families who completed the Solihull parenting programme. As a parent myself I know that sometimes we need all the help we can get. It is great just to be able to share our proud moments, as well as those that may not have been our finest hours!!!! We hope the programme was useful and we look forward to future programmes with a new set of parents. Thanks to Miss McAdam and Carly May from the Children's Centre.

## FAST

It is with regret that we have decided not to hold FAST (Families and Schools Together) programme this academic year.

The reasons for this decision, although it saddens me, is the right one. FAST asks a great deal of extra commitment from staff, both during each session and with all the preparation and paperwork involved. It also takes a financial commitment that we needed to consider. I truly hope that this will be re-instated in future.

## FAST/PAWS

We really need to build on the fantastic work already being achieved by the FAST/PAWS team and increase our volunteers. **Please look out for the invites to attend meetings or let Mr Ledger know you are interested in being part of the team.** The board in the foyer will inform you of the monies raised and where they are being spent. We are currently purchasing a new Guided Reading Scheme, which I can assure you is not cheap!! This is due to the team and the fundraising efforts. So thank you.

## cakes/sweets

Just a reminder. Some children in our school have severe allergies. In order to keep them safe, we ask that children do not bring in cakes or sweets to share with the class, and that re-cycled boxes etc. sent in for craft activities are not food packets.

**Please also ensure that no foodstuffs in packed lunches contain any nuts.** Thank you.



